Minority Student Life

It has been brought to the attention of the Twilight Committee that for the past approximately 10 years many of the black students at Middlebury excluded themselves from participation in varsity athletics. This problem appears most acutely on the football team in part due to the fact that it is the sport which attracts most of our minority student athletes. Problems of this sort have also been noted in the past with the basketball and tennis teams.

The pattern of this phenomenon has been that after limited participation on an athletic team, the students have quit the team in anger and frustration. The committee calls attention to this pattern because of its recurrent nature. We are concerned that the minority students who come to Middlebury, many of whom have participated extensively in athletics in the high schools, do not feel comfortable participating in those same sports on our campus.

We urge the Athletic Department to recognize this problem and to make efforts to eliminate it by encouraging minority student participation. We do not suggest favoritism as this could be detrimental to the team's cohesiveness. Yet we feel that the coaches should be aware that differences often do exist between their minority players and their non-minority players and we urge them to be sensitive to those differences.